

ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE
May 27, 2004
Fetzer Boardroom

Members present: Dr. Noni Threinen, (**Chair**), Dr. Dale Healey, Dr. Max Hines, Dr. Lynne Hvidsten, Dr. Anita Manne, Mr. Mark McKenzie, Dr. Rob Scott, Ms. Emily Tweed, Mr. Tony Wangerin, Ms. Xianhui Yang

Absent: Ms. Jane Richardson, Dr. Okokon Udo

Approval of last meeting minutes:

Motion Healey, Scott to approve the minutes from the May 20, 2004 meeting with minor changes. Motion passed.

Completion of assessment review based on results from the UAC Assessment Culture Matrix update from 5-20-04:

Dr. Threinen reviewed a summary of the average values that Assessment Committee members rated the assessment review process at the last meeting. The rating scale ranged from 1-9.

	<u>Average Rating</u>
I. Institutional Culture	
a. Collective/shared value	3.0
b. Mission	4.5
II. Shared Responsibility	
a. Faculty	3.0
b. Administration/Board	4.6
c. Students	1.8
III. Institutional Support	
a. Resources	5.0
b. Structures	5.1
IV. Efficacy of Assessment	3.0

The Committee discussed how current ratings compared to a similar rating scale taken last year. It was noted that for some of our ratings, the values have decreased over the past year. It was felt it was beneficial to take a poll periodically to determine how everyone feels our progress has been to date regarding the assessment process.

The Committee also felt there has been a significant increase in the amount of resources that are now available for the assessment process. There have also been positive changes in shared responsibility with the Administration and Board.

It was noted that the lower rating for the overall mission was due to the perception of the Mission statement not specifically stating a focus for student learning, although it is included in the guiding principles.

Dr. Threinen led a discussion regarding what action plan the Committee should be moving toward at this time. It was felt that one of the elements missing is faculty buy-in for the assessment process. It was felt this varies by program awareness, interest level and time commitments. The scheduled faculty focus groups next week will give better information to understand what is missing or needed to help faculty become more engaged.

The Committee also felt that we need to strive toward educating students regarding this process. This was an intentional delay, since we're working toward faculty buy-in first before educating students regarding the process. Focus groups for students may be the next step, once we see how the faculty groups go.

Dr. Threinen suggested that this Committee needs to do more coaching as a resource for various elements of the community. She inquired whether members of the Committee could demonstrate an increased visibility to individuals that need assistance. Dr. Threinen will visit with each member of the Committee regarding this issue. She sincerely appreciates everyone's participation in the Assessment Cultural Matrix review process.

AAHE Participation – Dr. Threinen stated that seven faculty members have registered for the upcoming American Association of Higher Education (AAHE) conference in Denver, Colorado for June 13-15, 2004. Dr. John Healey, the team leader, along with Beth Burgan, Dr. Kren McManus, Xianhui Yang, Dr. Terry Erickson, Dr. Julia Bartlett and Dr. Renee DeVries will be attending that conference. Dr. Threinen requested that members of that group collectively share information from the conference with the remaining faculty in some way.

Dr. Threinen has received the annual Assessment review reports from Dr. Scott, Mark McKenzie & Dr. Healey. This information will be reviewed at a meeting in July.

Alumni Survey:

Dr. Threinen recently met with Debbie Peterson regarding content of previous alumni surveys and whether the survey asks questions related to curriculum effectiveness. Some consideration has been given by the chiropractic program to feedback regarding professional development. Dr. Healey will meet individually with Dr. Threinen regarding content before sending out a survey from the School of Massage Therapy. Mark McKenzie commented that MCAOM also has a survey, and there would be an opportunity to collect program information for that survey.

Action: Dr. Threinen will forward additional information regarding her meeting with Debbie Peterson to members of the Assessment Committee.

Director Updates:

MCAOM: Mark McKenzie reported that John Pirog stated that communication and education in the community will be a focal point in the fall term. The MCAOM department is also working on a graphic way to demonstrate learning outcome progress in their department.

Chiropractic: Dr. Scott will be requesting that additional members of the chiropractic faculty be assigned to join work groups for development of the remaining six (6) criteria for outcomes of the University Learning Outcomes.

Agreement on priorities for addressing remaining University Learning Outcomes:

The overall University Learning Outcomes are:

1. Effective Communication
2. Self Directed and Lifelong Learning
3. Ethical Reasoning
4. Individuals, Communities & Cultures
5. Service to the Community
6. Influence of Mind, Body and Spirit on Health
7. Critical Thought and Knowledge Acquisition
8. Competence in one's Discipline

Dr. Threinen led a discussion relative to Committee member preference for a strategy for approaching the remaining learning outcomes. It was felt we want to develop a priority for what outcome would be best to pursue at this time.

Members suggested their preferences for the next learning outcome as the following:

- Dr. Threinen in favor of *Ethical Reasoning* or *Critical Thought and Knowledge Acquisition*
- Emily Tweed – *Individuals, Communities & Cultures*
- Dr. Hines – *Ethical Reasoning* or *Critical Thought and Knowledge Acquisition* (He also favors deciding what sequence we would like to have for the remaining outcomes)
- Tony Wangerin - & Dr. Manne – *Critical Thought & Knowledge Acquisition*
- Dr. Hvidsten & Emily Tweed – *Individuals, Communities & Cultures*
- Dr. Healey – Difficult to choose one – they're all important. Whatever one we choose, we should work toward a pattern of success with the outcomes.
- Xianhui Yang – *Influence of Mind, Body & Spirit on Health* or *Critical Thought and Knowledge Acquisition*
- Mark McKenzie – *Ethical Reasoning* or *Critical Thought and Knowledge Acquisition* (since they are clearly defined).
- Dr. Sawyer – Wants to provide direction for curricular issues that relate to cultural competence and awareness
- Dr. Scott – Be aware of the pragmatic issue if deciding on *Critical Thought and Knowledge Acquisition* which may disperse faculty resources in too many directions at once.

Mark McKenzie also commented that which ever outcome we decide on could have a significant impact on departments with limited resources. No final decision was made on the next learning outcome at this time. Dr. Threinen requested that committee members give some additional thought to this issue prior to the next meeting, and a final decision will be made at that meeting.

Minutes written by: Diane Newcomer

Approved by _____
Noni Threinen, D.C., Chair
University Assessment Committee